

NBCC / CHESS BIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN GARCIA

On April 11, the club commenced the second quarter of 2017 with a one-night event held in tribute to veteran member Martin Garcia. Born in New York City and raised in Puerto Rico, Martin began his chess training in Switzerland. While living in this country, Martin attended the same high school where prominent FM Sunil Weremantry studied, and both were members of the International School Chess Club and the Geneva Chess Club. After attending college in Boston, Martin came to the Hartford area to work and joined the Hartford Chess Club soon thereafter. He also became a regular at Paul's Chess Store. During his membership in the HCC, Martin played on many of their team matches with the NBCC. When the HCC disbanded after losing the leadership of Nick Stevens, Martin joined our family. Because of numerous job relocations, Martin's membership has not been as continuous as many of the other members who the club has honored. Still, Mr. Garcia has many vivid memories about his wonderful experiences with the club through the years. He knew the legendary Arkadijs Strazdins and relished competing in the tournaments that he directed. Martin particularly has enjoyed participating on team events with the club. A lifetime expert, Martin currently ranks in the USCF's Top 100 list for blitz chess players. This, according to FM Richard Bauer, "despite having earned the less complimentary nickname of 'seven-minute' Garcia for his tendency to get flagged in five-minute games!" In addition, Martin has earned the nickname "Endgame" Garcia for his incredible ability to prevail in difficult games. And when Martin attains an advantage on the chess board, watch out for a brilliant sacrifice! His gentle good nature, lively spirit, and genuine companionship are qualities that make Martin truly one of the nicest people in our family. Mr. Garcia recently rejoined the club, and he will be staying in Connecticut even though he had plans to move to California this summer. Twenty-two players of all ages and skills competed in Martin's special event. The open section had a strong field of masters and experts. The U1800 section consisted of many scholastic players. After an evening of spirited play, FMs Nelson Castaneda and Richard Bauer tied for first place in the open section. Nelson won on tie-breaks to receive the lovely trophy. Robert Wooster, who just joined the club a month ago, finished in first place in the U1400 section. Many thanks to David Herscovici for assisting Norman Burtness with directing.